

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 47 remain pending. Claims 1, 16, 26 and 36 are currently amended.

This Response is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

The following remarks are responsive to the final Office Action mailed July 29, 2003 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, claims 1 - 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell Computer (Prior Art cited in PTO - 892) and Henson Patent No. 6,167,383) in view of Barnes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,970,475).

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 16, 26 and 36 to more clearly recite the novel and unobvious aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants have amended the independent claims to further add the limitation that the virtual bundles produced by the administrator are purchasable on a web page not associated with the vendor. In this respect, the virtual bundles are created such that they can be purchased from a web page of the group rather than the vendor in order to provide more independence for the purchaser as well as the selection of the bundles. As seen in Figure 2, the user selects virtual bundles from the group's web page in step 72. By allowing the user to select the virtual bundle from the group's web page, rather than the vendor, the server system creating the bundles does not need to store a password for each member of the group. The passwords and other administrative details of the group's users

are stored on the group's web page server or other computer of the group thereby freeing up resources of the vendor. Accordingly, by creating virtual bundles that are purchasable from the group's web page rather than the vendor's, the group retains more control over purchases and the selection of bundles, while the resources of the vendor are more efficiently used.

Applicant's respectfully submit that none of the references teach or suggest that the virtual bundles are created by an administrator not associated with a vendor and are suitable for purchase from a web page of the group. As argued in the previously submitted response and incorporated herein by reference, the Dell and Henson references teach purchasing products directly from the vendor (i.e., Dell). Similarly, the Barnes et al. reference teaches purchasing products using the suppliers web site. Specifically, referring to Figure 2, the customer (i.e, purchaser 24) uses a computer terminal 26 and customer server 34 to contact the supplier 16 through the Internet 14. As seen in Figure 3, the supplier system 16 includes a supplier catalog server 42, a supplier processor 40, a supplier legacy catalog 44' and a supplier legacy system 44. The catalog server 42 provides all catalog format and maintenance capabilities. The customer uses the online catalog to purchase goods from the supplier. The system provides software to the suppliers to "...specify customer-specific pricing profiles and to process purchase orders received from corporate purchasers." (Barnes et al, col 9, lines 51 - 54). The customer server 46 provides the necessary tools for the customer to purchase the goods from the supplier. Specifically, the customer server 46 includes functionality for purchasing management that

sets up the suppliers and goods that a company wants to purchase from. The customer server limits the purchases to approved purchases from the suppliers system 16. Accordingly, the customer is purchasing products directly from the vendor with controls set by the customer's company.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 16, 26 and 36 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the references, either alone or in combination, because none of the references teach or suggest selecting virtual bundles by an administrator not associated with the vendor and having the bundles suitable for purchase from a web page of the group.

In view of the preceding discussion and claim amendments, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to call Applicants' representative, Mr. Eric Proul, at (650) 622-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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